

Dear
Contemporary Comments
Subscriber:



Thank you for faithfully reading and using Contemporary Comments-- which uses a story from our current news to illustrate a theme for Bible topics--as a resource for your personal use, and for your small Sabbath school groups.

We are now shifting this resource to be more. We will be rebranding Contemporary Comments as Sharing Scripture, which will still contain the narrative you've come to appreciate--but now, with reflection questions (all free of charge)!

Soon, you'll see the name change and the rebranding for the weekly release of this newsletter.

If you appreciate using Contemporary Comments as a resource, and know others who may be interested, share these email newsletters with a friend. If you have any questions regarding our rebranding or Contemporary Comments in general, please call us at 800.272.4664 or email us at 2724664@gmail.com.

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Executive Director

Contemporary Comments

"The Seven Last Plagues"

March 16, 2019

Texts: Revelation 15:1; 7:1-3; 14:9-10; 16:1-12; 17:1; Daniel 5; Revelation 16:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

It's an enduring, end-time apocalyptic theme that won't go away. Everyone likes it and hates it, so it gets tossed around--especially in pop culture--and even in recent news. Destruction is relevant, and sometimes very necessary. Whether it's blowing up the color-barrier in college football's Sugar Bowl [1] or motivating women in Great Britain to promote a birth-strike after a UN report reveals a dismal future for our planet's children and grandchildren, [2] we see drastic changes taking place.

In the 1998 blockbuster disaster/thriller film *Armageddon*, scientists theorize that the only way to save the planet from a giant, earth-bound

asteroid is to drill a hole in it, insert a nuclear bomb, and detonate it to pieces. Harry Stamper (Bruce Willis) does just that, in the nick of time. It became the highest-grossing film that year, though scientists said another film, *Deep Impact*, was for more scientifically accurate.

[3]

Of course, we know the world will meet a fate more final than an asteroid impact.

How will it all end? In this week's Sabbath school, we take a look at the infamous seven last plagues, judgments of God on a world that has sealed its choice against heaven. We learn from the Scriptures (not the silver screen) that the heaving of the natural elements does not come from random flukes of heaven or earth, but from leaders and people who refuse to acknowledge God as Creator and Ruler of all humanity.

Armageddon is not a literal battle against a disintegrating eco-system nor a Middle East war against Israel and "fill-in-the-blank with the latest enemy." It centers on the deeply spiritual question, "Who will you ultimately worship?" Like the Mt. Carmel showdown between Elijah and the priests of Baal, the Armageddon at the end of the seven last plagues ushers in the victorious coming of Christ and the destruction of the enemies of God's people.

Will nuclear bombs destroy parts of the earth before Christ returns? Will nature turn upside down as nations angrily try to control our planet's future? Will devastating viruses wipe out millions of people? Will out-of-control dictators sacrifice the safety of their people in order to maintain their grip on position and power? (After all, we've already seen cruel forces rip apart pieces of earth.)

There's only one safe place to stand when the last plagues fall: firmly on the Rock. "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock" (Matthew 7:24, 25).

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[1] http://www.espn.com/college-football/story/_/id/26027623/the-south-stands-armageddon-breaking-sugar-bowl-color-barrier

[2] <https://www.breitbart.com/europe/2019/03/07/uk-birth-ban-eco-armageddon/>

[3] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armageddon_\(1998_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armageddon_(1998_film))

About Us

Since 1988, the Center for Creative Ministry has been serving local church leaders and individuals around the world. Formerly known as the publishers of ABBA Newsletter and the Baby Boomer Ministries Resource Center, we have now broadened our generational/ministry focus to include our children. The Center for Creative Ministry took on its new name on June 1, 1996.

The Center for Creative Ministry, formerly Baby Boomer Ministries, is a privately funded and managed para-church ministry fully recognized by

the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. We are dedicated to supporting the local church in outreach and nurture ministries by providing resources, information, training, and consulting.